# Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EA-09 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 L-03 H-02 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 EPG-02 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 LAB-04 SIL-01 AGR-01 FEAE-00 /120 W

O R 151651Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5061

TREASURY DEPT WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL BELFAST

AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

USMISSION GENEVA

USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 04 LONDON 09854

USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY USOECD ALSO FOR EMBASSY USMTN

DEPARTMENT PASS FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD

TREASURY FOR DONALD E. SYVRUD, OASIA

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: ECON, UK

SUBJECT: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS FOR PERIOD JUNE 9 - L5TH

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SUMMARY: WHILE HMG'S BUDGET PROPOSALS WERE RUNNING INTO PARLIAMENTARY DIFFICULTIES (SEE SEPTEL), THE LATEST ECONOMIC INDICATORS DID NOT SUGGEST ANY BUOYANCY. WHOLESALE PRICES CONTINUED TO RISE ALTHOUGH THE PRICES OF RAW MATERIALS AND FUELS HAVE BEEN MORE STABLE IN RECENT MONTHS. RETAIL SALES VOLUME REMAINS DEPRESSED.

#### THE MORTGAGE RATE WAS RE-

DUCED TO 10.5 PERCENT AND BANKING FIGURES PRESAGE LITTLE OR NO INCREASE IN M3, ALTHOUGH CENTRAL GOVERNMENT BORROW-ING REQUIREMENT INCREASED SHARPLY. THE PARTIAL SALE OF HMG EQUITY IN BRITISH PETROLEUM WILL REALIZE 564 MILLION POUNDS. STERLING HAS BEEN STRONGER IN QUIET TRADING COND. ITIONS. END SUMMARY

1. WHOLESALE PRICES. FACTORY GATE PRICES ROSE IN MAY WHILE THE COST OF RAW MATERIALS AND FUELS PURCHASED BY IN DUSTRY FELL. THE WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX FOR GOODS EXFACTORY (1970 EQUALS 100) STOOD AT 259.6 IN MAY, A RISE OF 1.6 PERCENT FROM THE APRIL FIGURE OF 255.4. THIS INDEX IS NOW 20.9 PERCENT ABOVE ITS LEVEL OF A YEAR EARLIER. HIGHER CAR PRICES ACCOUNTED FOR ABOUT A QUARTER OF THE MAY INCREASE. IT HAD BEEN EXPECTED THAT THE MONTHLY RATE OF INCREASE (1.5 TO 2.0 PERCENT IN RECENT MONTHS) WOULD SHOW SIGNS OF SLACKENING BY NOW. THE PRESS HAS SPECULATED THAT MANUFACTURERS ARE INCREASING PRICES TO WIDEN PROFIT MARGINS. PARTLY IN ANTICIPATION OF LOOSER PRICE CONTROLS WHICH TAKE EFFECT IN AUGUST.

WHOLESALE PRICES OF RAW MATERIALS AND FUEL (INPUTS) DECLINED BY 0.5 PERCENT IN MAY WITH THE INDEX (1970 EQUALS 100) DECLINING TO 348.1 FROM 349.8. THIS INDEX IS 19.2 PERCENT HIGHER THAN IT WAS A YEAR AGO. HOWEVER, THE STABILITY OF STERLING IN RECENT MONTHS HAS PRODUCED A MARKED SLOWING IN THE RATE OF INCREASE OF INPUT PRICES. THESE HAVE RISEN BY 3.7 PERCENT BETWEEN THE THREE MONTHS TO MAY AND THE PREVIOUS THREE-MONTH PERIOD AND BY 2.5 UNCLASSIFIED

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PERCENT BETWEEN FEBRUARY AND MAY. THESE INCREASES APPEAR QUITE MODERATE WHEN COMPARED WITH THE 9.8 AND 7.5 PERCENT RISES WHICH OCCURRED DURING THE SECOND AND FOURTH QUARTERS OF 1976 WHEN STERLING FELL SHARPLY.

2. RETAIL SALES. PROVISIONAL ESTIMATES FOR MAY SHOW LITTLE CHANGE FROM THE DEPRESSED LEVELS OF MARCH AND APRIL. THE RETAIL SALES VOLUME INDEX (1971 EQUALS 100) STOOD A PROVISIONAL L03.5 IN MAY' VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED FROM THE FINAL APRIL FIGURE OF 103.4, ITSELF REVISED DOWNWARD FROM 104.0. THE VOLUME OF SALES DURING THE 3 MONTHS THROUGH MAY WAS 3.3 PERCENT BELOW THAT OF THE PRECEDING THREE-MONTH PERIOD AND INDICATES THAT DECLINING REAL PERSONAL INCOMES ARE CONTINUING TO AFFECT CONSUMPTION.

DISAGGREGATING THE FINAL APRIL FIGURES THE VOLUME OF FOOD, CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR. AND OTHER NON-FOOD SALES DECLINED. THESE WERE MARGINALLY OFFSET BY A SHARP REBOUND IN DURABLE GOODS SALES FROM THE UNUSUALLY DEPRESSED MARCH FIGURE. THE MOST STRIKING ELEMENT IN THE APRIL DATA

### IS THE CONTINUING DECLINE IN THE VOLUME OF FOOD SALES.

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O R 151651Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5062

TREASURY DEPT WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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IN THE YEAR TO APRIL' THE INDEX MEASURING FOOD SALES HAS DECLINED BY 6.8 PERCENT. THIS DROP HAS TAKEN THE INDEX FULLY 5.4 PERCENT BELOW ITS 1971 BASE. IT APPEARS TO IN DICATE THAT THE BRITISH CONSUMER IS BUYING CHEAPER FOODS IN SMALLER QUANTITIES AS FOOD PRICES CONTINUE TO OUTPACE THE GENERAL RATE OF ORICE INCREASE.

3. INSTALMENT CREDIT. THE AMOUNT OF NEW CREDIT EXTENDED IN APRIL WAS VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED. FINANCE HOUSES EX:TEND-UNCLASSIFIED

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ED 157 MILLION POUNDS IN NEW CREDIT COMPAROD/ WITH 171 MILLION IN MARCH WHILE RETAILERS ADVANCED CUSTOMERS 198 MILLION POUNDS VERSUS 183 MILLION IN MARCH. OVER THE 3 MONTHS TO AORIL. FINANCE HOUSES INCREASED THE AMOU:NT OF NEW CREDIT BY 15 PERCENT COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS THREE MONTHS WHILE ON THE SAME BASIS THERE WAS NO CHANGE IN THE AMOUNT OF NEW CREDIT EX:TENDED BY RETAILERS. THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF DEBT OUTSTANDING TO FINANCE HOUSES AND RETAILERS ROSE TO 2.2 BILLION POUNDS IN APRILFROM 2.737 BILLION IN MARCH.

# 4. BALANCE OF PAYMENTS. THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS

FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1977 WERE RELEASED JUNE 9 (SEE LONDON A-411). THE FIRST QUARTER CURRENT ACCOUNT DEFICIT WAS INCREASED MODESTLY FROM A PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE (SEE LONDON 7973) OF 294 MILLION POUNDS TO 327 MILLION POUNDS' AND VISIBLE TRADE DEFICIT REVISED UPWARDS FROM 954 MILLION POUNDS TO 968 MILLION POUNDS' WHILE THE ESTIMATE OF THE INVISIBLES SURPLUS WAS REDUCED FROM 660 MILLION POUNDS TO

THE CAPITAL ACCOUNTS PROVIDE THE FIRST DETAIL ON THE MOVEMENTS THAT ACCOMPANIED THE 3.197 BILLION POUND IN-CREASE IN OFFICIAL RESERVES DURING THE FIRST QUARTER. OVERSEAS INVESTMENT IN THE U.K, PUBLIC SECTOR WAS 458 MILLION POUNDS IN 1977 I COMPARED WITH 123 MILLION POUNDS IN 1976 IV. PRIMARILY DUE TO THE PURCHASE OF GOVERNMENT LONG-TERM SECURITIES. THE 389 MILLION POUND INCREASE IN STERLING BALANCES WAS THE RESULT OF PURCHASES OF BANKING AND MONEY MARKET INSTRUMENTS RATHER THAN OF GILTS. EX-PORT CREDIT EXTENDED IS THOUGHT TOHAVE FALLENFROM 353 MIL-LION POUNDS IN 1976 IV TO 47 MILLION POUNDS IN 1977 I. THIS SHARP FALL REFLECTS PART OF THE REDUCTION OF U.K. FINANCE OF THIRD COUNTRY STERLING TRADE. SUCH FINANCE WAS PROHIBITED UNDER THE NOVEMBER 1976 CHANGES IN THE EXCHANGE CONTROL LAWS, RESULTING SINCE THEN IN AN ESTIMA-UNCLASSIFIED

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641 MILLION POUNDS.

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TED 1 BILLION POUND REFLUX FROM ALL SOURCES. THE REFLUX IS THOUGHT TO BE OVER. THE BALANCING ITEMS (I.E., ERRORS AND OMISSIONS) WHICH IN PART REFLECTS CHANGES IN THE LEADS AND LAGS OF FOREIGN TRADE PAYMENTS. INCREASED TO 474 MILLION POUNDS IN 1977 I FROM 118 MILLION POUNDS IN 1976 IV.

THE BALANCE FOR OFFICIAL FINANCING ROSE FROM A 133 MILLION POUND DEFICIT IN 1976 IV TO A 1.913 BILLION POUND

### SURPLUS IN 1977 I.

5. BANKING FIGURES. THE GROWTH OF THE MONETARY AGGRE-GATES APOARENTLY CONTINUES TO BE CHECKED. DURING THE BANKING MONTH ENDED MAY 18. THE BANKING SYSTEM'S ELIGIBLE LIABILITIES (ELS), BASICALLY ALL STERLING LIABILITIES WHICH HAVE LESS THAN TWO YEARS' MATURITY OR WHICH ARISE FROM SWITCHING OUT OF FOREIGN CURRENCIES, WERE VIRTUALLY UN-CHANGED FROM APRIL'S LEVELS. THE EL'S NOW STAND AT AP-PROXIMATELY THE LEVEL ATTAINED IN SEPTEMBER 1976. IN-TEREST-BEARING ELIGIBLE LIABILITIES (IBEL'S) WERE ALSO AT APRIL4AS LEVEL SO THAT THE BANKING SYSTEM AS A WHOLE REMAINED WITHIN THE LIMITS ON LIABILITY GROWTH IMPOSED BY THE "CORSET". HOWEVER, FIVE BANKS INDIVIDUALLY IN-CURRED PENALTIES FOR EXCEEDING THE BANK OF ENGLAND'S NORMS ON THE GROWTH OF INTEREST-BEARING ELIGIBLE LIABILI-TIES' LARGELY "BOUGHT MONEY," SUCH AS CDS. HOWEVER STATISTICS FOR THE LONDON CLEARING BANKS SHOWED THAT WHEREAS THEIR STERLING DEPOSITS DECLINED BY 156 MIL-LION POUNDS. THEIR FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS INCREASED 373 MILLION POUNDS.

THE STATISTICS ON ELIGIBLE LIABILITIES. RESERVE ASSETS, RESERVE RATIOS, AND SPECIAL DEPOSITS CAN BE SUMMARIZED: MILLIONS OF POUNDS

APRIL 20 MAY 18

ELIGIBLE LIABILITIES 35.846 35,826
OF WHICH INTEREST-BEARING 23.997 23,940
RESERVE ASSETS
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OF WHICH MONEY AT CALL 5.077 5,026
IN THE DISCOUNT MARKET 1,999 1,785
U.K. AND NO. IRELAND
TREASURY BILLS 1.307 1.411

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O R 151651Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5063

TREASURY DEPT WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL BELFAST

AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

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COMMERCIAL BILLS 613 637

SPECIAL DEPOSITS L,021 1,046

(PERCENT)

RESERVE RATIO 14.2 14.0

6. SALE OF BP EQUITY. AS ANNOUNCED LAST DECEMBER, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PUBLICATION OF HMG'S LETTER OF INTENT TO THE IMF, THE GOVERNMENT HAS SOLD 66.79 MILLION SHARES OF ITS HOLDING IN BRITISH PETROLEUM. THIS REDUCES UNCLASSIFIED

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HMG S INTEREST TO 51 PERCENT FROM ITS CURRENT 68 PERCENT. THE SALE WAS UNDERWRITTEN BY 10 LONDON MERCHANT BANKS WHO PAID 8.45 POUNDS (\$14.50) PER SHARE OR A TOTAL OF 564.4 MILLION POUNDS. THE GOVERNMENT HAD INITIALLY EXPECTED TO REALIZE 500 MILLION POUNDS FROM THE SALE. IN ANTICIPATION OF THE SALE BP SHARES FELL BACK FROM 9.30 POUNDS ON JUNE 3 TO YESTERDAY'S CLOSE OF 8.70 POUNDS. ABOUT 25 PERCENT OF THE SHARES WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO U.S. INVESTORS AT A PRICE AT LEAST EQUAL TO THE LONDON OFFER PRICE, THROUGH A 5-BANK CONSOTRIUM LED BY MORGAN STANLEY. TO SWEETEN THE OFFER, BRITISH PURCHASERS WILL BE ABLE TO PAY FOR THE SHARES IN TWO INSTALMENTS. INITIAL-

LY THEY WOULD PAY 3.00 POUNDS PER SHARE WITH THE REMAINING 5.45 POUNDS DUE ON DECEMBER 6.

- 7. MORTGAGE RATES. THE BUILDING SOCIETIES ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCED A FURTHER REDUCTION IN THEIR MORTAGE RATES TO 10.5 PERCENT FROM 11.25 PERCENT. THIS FOLLOWS CLOSELY ON APRIL'S 1.0 PERCENT REDUCTION FROM 12.25 PERCENT. THE 10.5 PERCENT RATE WILL APPLY TO NEW MORTGAGES IMMEDIATELY, AND TO EXISTING MORTGAGES FROM JULY 1. THE BUILDING SO-CIETIES WILL ALSO REDUCE THEIR RATE ON DEPOSITS FROM 7.0 PERCENT TO 6.7 PERCENT. (THE BUILDING SOCIETIES PAY THE BASIC TAX RATE ON BEHALF OF THEIR INVESTORS'THE INVESTORS' RATE BEING QUOTED NET OF THIS PAYMENT.) THE REDUC-TION IN DEPOSIT RATE HAS FOLLOWED OTHER INTEREST RATE DE-CLINES ONLY WITH A LAG, AS THE SOCIETIES PERMITTED THEIR NET RECEIPTS TO RECOVER FROM LAST DECEMBER'S LOW LEVELS. NET RECEIPTS FOR APRIL WERE A RECORD 475 MILLION POUNDS, THIS WAS SURPASSED IN MAY WHEN NET RECEIPTS OF 511 MIL-LION POUNDS WERE RECORDED.
- 7. FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKET THIS WEEK HAS BEEN VERY QUIET ACCORDING TO MARKET SOURCES, FAIRLY STRONG COMMERCIAL DEMAND ON MONDAY MAY HAVE ENABLED BANK OF ENGLAND TO TAKE IN FOREIGN EXCHANGE. GENERALLY VOLUME IN SPOT AND FORUNCLASSIFIED

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WARD MARKETS REPORTED FAIRLY SMALL AND RELATED TO COM. MERCIAL ACTIVITY. SOME DEALERS SPECULATE MARKET IS ENTERING SUMMER DOLDRUMS.

8. CENTRAL GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS. THE CEN-TRAL GOVERNMENT BORROWING REQUIREMENT (CGBR) ROSE SHARPLY IN MAY. AT 1.264 BILLION POUNDS, THE CGBR WAS 0.484 BIL-LION POUNDS HIGHER THAN IN THE CORRESPONDING MONTH IN FY 76/77. THE SIZE OF THE INCREASE HAS BEEN ATTRIBUTED TO A SERIES OF SPECIAL FACTORS. FIRST, THE TIMING OF CERTAIN PAYMENTS TOTALLING 400 MILLION POUNDS TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES BY CENTRAL GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN ALTERED. SECOND THE GOVERNMENT HAD TO MAKE ITS FIRST INTEREST PAY-MENT (OVER 300 MILLION POUNDS) ON THE LARGE AMOUNT OF GILT EDGED SECURITIES SOLD LAST DECEMBER. THERE WAS ALSO A SHARP RISE IN NET LONG-TERM BORROWING BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS LOAN BOARD. REVENUES ROSE BY 16.2 PERCENT IN MAY COMPARED WITH A BUDGET FORECAST OF 11.7 PERCENT. EXPENDITURES, AFFECTED BY THE AFOREMENTIONED FACTORS. ROSE BY 35.0 PERCENT COMPARED WITH A BUDGET FORECAST OF 10.5 PERCENT. DESPITE THE MAY FIGURES, IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE CGBR IS STILL IN LINE WITH BUDGET FORECASTS. THE FOLLOWING TABLE SUMMARIZES THE LATEST AVAILABLE DATA:

#### POUNDS MILLION

1977-78

CONSOLIDATED FUND BUDGET .AOR. 31 MAV MAY

FORECAST 1976 1977 1976 1977

REVENUE 37,742 5.139 5,869 2,414 2.805

EXPENDITURE 43,489 5,792 6,967 2,798 3,778

DEFICIT -5,747 - 653 -1,098 - 384 - 973

NATIONAL LOANS

FUND (1)

CONSOLIDATED FUND DEFICIT

(AS ABOVE) -5,747 - 653 -1.098 - 384 - 973

OTHER TRANSACTIONS:

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RECEIPTS 5.300 558 901 268 645

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INFO OCT-01 EA-09 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00

 $NSCE-00\ INRE-00\ USIE-00\ PA-02\ PRS-01\ L-03\ H-02$ 

SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 EPG-02 SS-15 STR-04

OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 LAB-04 SIL-01 AGR-01 FEAE-00

(ISO)W

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5064

TREASURY DEPT WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL BELFAST

AMCONSUL EDINBURGH USMISSION GENEVA USDOC WASHDC

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PAYMENTS -7,188 - 976 -1'593 - 660 - 837

TOTAL NET BORROWING BY THE

NATIONAL LOANS

FUND -7.635 -1.071 -1,790 - 776 -1,165

OTHER FUNDS AND

ACCOUNTS 776 31 - 58 - 4 - 99

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

BORROWING REQUIRE-

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MENT -6,859 -1,040 -1,848 - 780 -1,264

(1) - EXCLUDING NATIONAL DEBT AND OTHER TRANSACTIONS CONCERNED WITH THE FINANCING OF THE BORROWING REQUIREMENT.

# 

EXCHANGE RATE

EXCHANGE (DEC. 1971 GOLD

DATE RATE (\$) EQUALS 100) (\$)

6/8 1.7186 61.6 142-5/8

6/9 1.7184 61.6 140-7/8

6/10 1.7188 6,1.6 140 5/8

6/13 1.7194 61.5 138-1/4

6/14 1.7191 61.5 137-5/8

CHANGE 6/3-6/14 UP 0.0013 DOWN 0.1 DOWN 4.1/4

# 10. FORWARD DISCOUNT ON STERLING

DATE	1 MONTH		3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS
6/8	0.68	1.95	3.67	
6/9	0.68	1.95	3.75	
6/10	0.67	1.98	3.80	
6/13	0.57	1 92	3.77	
6/14	0.57	L.80	3.65	

CHANGE 6/3-6/14 NAR 0 23 NAR. 0.15 NAR 0.22 (ALL FIGURES IN CENTS)

# 11. EURODOLLAR INTEREST RATES

DATE	1 MONTH	4 3 MC	ONTHS	6 MONTHS
6/8	5-3/8	5-3/4	6-1/4	
6/9	5-1/2	5-3/4	6-1/8	
6/10	5-1/2	5-3/4	6-1/8	
6/13	5-3/4	5-3/4	6-1/8	

6/14 5-1/2 5-3/4 6

CHANGE 6/3-6/14 DOWN 1/8 DOWN 1/4 DOWN 1/4

 $12.\ THREE-MONTH\ LONDON\ INTERBANK\ -\ EURODOLLAR\ INTEREST$  UNCLASSIFIED

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RATE DIFFERENTIAL
6/8 2-3/16
6/9 2-3/16
6/10 2-3/16
6/13 2-3/16
6/14 2

CHANGE 6/3-6/14 NARROWED 1/32

# 13.STERLING CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT

DATE	1 MON	TH 3 M	IONTHS	6 MONTHS
6/8	7-3/16	7-7/8	8-3/4	
6/9	7-7/32	7-7/8	8-27/32	
6/10	7-1/4	7-13/16	8-3/4	
6/13	7-1/4	7-13/16	8-3/4	
6/14	7-1/4	7-23/32	8-21/32	

CHANGE 6/3.6/14 DOWN L/16 DOWN 5/32 DOWN 3/32

14.THE MINIMUM LENDING RATE WAS UNCHANGED AT 8 PERCENT AFTER FRIDAY'S TREASURY BILL AUCTION. THE AVERAGE TREAS. URY BILL RATE FELL 0.0103 PERCENT TO 7.4430 PERCENT AT THE AUCTION AS 700.25 MILLION POUNDS IN BIDS WERE RECEIVED FOR THE 300 MILLION POUNDS TENDERED. THIS WEEK 300 MILLION POUNDS IN BILLS WILL AGAIN BE OFFERED AS A SIMILAR AMOUNT MATURES.

**BREWSTER** 

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